



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-1465 or (213) 974-1431
Website: <http://sbc.lacounty.gov>

FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Helen H. Stathatos

Mr. Frank S. Bacio
Mr. Vito Cannella
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE **SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS** **MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** **JANUARY 16, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chair Montañó led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Vice Chair Helen H. Stathatos
Frank Bacio
Vito Cannella
Rita Hall
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

John A. Hammargren

Others Present

Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Geoconda Burbano, Department of Children and Family Services
Candace Rhue, L.A. County Auditor-Controller
Frank Imperial, Department of Probation
Captain Warren Asmus, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Lieutenant Steve Wilson, L.A. County Sheriff's Department
Angelica Lopez, Community Care Licensing
Gilbert Gutierrez, Community Care Licensing

Staff

Janice A. Davis, Commission Services Staff
Andrew Sevrin, Commission Services Staff

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chair Montaña welcomed everybody for coming to the meeting and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Sheriff's Department:

Lieutenant Steve Wilson began by distributing updated Sheriff's Department Phone Rosters and said that he would follow-up with Commander Delta Roberts regarding the jail improvements made at the Pico Rivera's Sheriff's Station in May 2007 and report to the Commission if the information was provided to other Sheriff's Stations.

On motion of Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the Commission unanimously approved sending a letter to the Sheriff's Department regarding the improvements made at the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station, requesting they provide the list of improvements to other Sheriff's Department Stations.

On motion of Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Cannella, the Commission unanimously approved sending a letter to Sheriff Leroy D. Baca commending Captain Robert J. Olmstead on the improvements made at Men's Central Jail.

Captain Warren Asmus gave the following report:

- The damaged floor at the Long Beach Courthouse will cost over \$25,000 to repair. A Board Letter has been drafted to repair the floor; however, the building is now owned by the State of California and not the County of Los Angeles.
- The Norwalk Court House is going through a downsizing.
- The Compton Court House has installed an updated Secondary Containment System including an improved cuffing station.

Probation Department:

Mr. Frank Imperial began by distributing the current list of Juvenile Services Facilities then gave the following report:

- There are currently three group homes on hold:
 - Two (2) Sherman Group Homes in Lancaster
 - Child's Home for Children in North Hollywood.
- Deputy Probation Officer Lozano is researching and reviewing the HV Group Home payment discrepancies and will provide the Commission with a response as soon as his investigation is completed.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Geoconda Burbano reported the following:

- In response to the youth in a foster home that has no school credits, Ms. Burbano replied that prior to being put in the foster home 2 years ago, he hadn't attended school for years. The school district is responsible for insuring every child is attending some type of school.

Ms. Dorothy Channel reported the following:

- The Girls & Boys Town facility on 27th Street voluntarily closed for remodeling.
- The use of gift cards by employees is being investigated by the Department's Internal Affairs Section.

Department of Auditor-Controller:

Ms. Candace Rhue reported the following:

- Auditor-Controller has concerns regarding three (3) of the Pioneer Group Homes in Newhall. An inspection showed poor upkeep. The representatives from Department of Children and Family Services said the only complaints they received were from residents in the neighborhood who weren't happy with the facility on their street.

Department of Mental Health: No representative was present.

Internal Services Department: No representative was present.

Community Care Licensing Division:

Ms. Angelica Lopez reported the following:

- Youths at group homes must have their files on site; the staff may store their files at the Corporate or Central offices.
- Questions regarding group homes' staff files should be directed to Community care Licensing Division rather than to DCFS or the Probation Department.
- There are two (2) CCL offices: Metro Los Angeles Office and the Monterey Park Office.
- Community Care Licensing Division considers all Commission group home inspections, important and helpful.

Chair Montano and the Commissioners thanked the various Department Representatives for their participation and reports.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Hall, and unanimously carried, the minutes of January 9, 2008 were approved, with the following changes:

- On page 4, paragraph 3, change: "spoke to the Manager of Operations" to "spoke to the *Executive Director*"...
- On page 4, paragraph 3, after "eating a proper diet" add "*this is in conjunction with the frozen foods contract delivery*"...

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Montañó reported on an article:

- "Coming to Aid of Foster Kids", Daily Breeze, January 16, 2008; regarding a DCFS report that lists a drop in runaway foster children from 505 in early 2006 to 285 in late 2007.

Captain Warren Asmus commented that it may be from the "999 Program" the Sheriff's Department has in conjunction with DCFS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Bacio reported the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$807.23.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Janice Davis, Staff, Commission Services gave the following report:

- Per the Auditor-Controller, effective January 1, 2008, mileage reimbursement rates will increase from .45 to .47 cents per mile. Copies of the memo were distributed to the Commission.

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Davis distributed copies of the Sybil Brand Commission draft Annual Report for 2007.

On motion of Commissioner Cannella, seconded by Commissioner Bacio and unanimously carried, the 2007 Annual Report of the Sybil Brand Commission was approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Montaña reported to the Commission:

- An invitation was received from the Southern California Chapter of NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives) to their Seventh Annual Achiever's Award on March 8, 2008 at the USC Town & Gown.
- An invitation to attend the St. Anne's Evening of Angels event to be held on April 5, 2008 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel was received by the Commission.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM JANUARY 9, 2008 TO JANUARY 15, 2008

Hudson Lyndsey Group Home – 31, #5 – Commissioners Bacio, Hall and Moore

The facility was visited on January 10, 2008, and found to be in less than satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Food supplies are low; menus and chores not posted; windows do not have quick-release bars; evacuation plan not posted; no van or other means of transportation.

Renaissance Unlimited #4 – 53, #1 – Commissioner Montaña

The facility was visited on January 10, 2008, and no one was home.

Moore's Cottage – 40, #5 – Commissioners Stathatos

The facility was visited on January 11, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Bright Future Youth Center – 58, #2 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montaña

The facility was visited on January 14, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Area of Concern: Outside banister is loose and poses a safety hazard.

Sycamore – 29, #1 – Commissioner Stathatos

The facility was visited on January 14, 2008, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Men's Central Jail – Commissioners Bacio, Hall, Montaña and Moore

The facility was visited on January 15, 2008 and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Boots need to be included with the turn-out gear; workmen needed to install wiring on closed-circuit TV system.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

- Reporting Guidelines for Department Representatives.
- Food Policy Guidelines from Smart Snackers will be in the Staff Report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Montaña adjourned the meeting at 12:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice A. Davis
Commission Services Division